



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 333**

February Session, 2022

Substitute House Bill No. 5342

*House of Representatives, April 6, 2022*

The Committee on Human Services reported through REP. ABERCROMBIE of the 83rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT CONCERNING MEMBERSHIP OF THE LOW-INCOME ENERGY ADVISORY BOARD.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 16a-41b of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
3 *2022*):

4 (a) There shall be a Low-Income Energy Advisory Board which shall  
5 consist of the following members or their designees: (1) A representative  
6 of each electric and gas public service company designated by each such  
7 company; (2) the chairperson of the Public Utilities Regulatory  
8 Authority; (3) the Consumer Counsel; (4) the executive director of  
9 Operation Fuel; (5) the executive director of Infoline; (6) the director of  
10 the Connecticut Local Administrators of Social Services; (7) the  
11 executive director of Legal Assistance Resource Center of Connecticut;  
12 (8) the Connecticut [president] state director of AARP; (9) a designee of  
13 the Norwich Public Utility; (10) a designee of the Independent

14 Connecticut Petroleum Association; (11) two representatives of  
 15 municipal or regional owned water utilities, designated by the  
 16 Connecticut Water Works Association; (12) the executive director of the  
 17 Connecticut Fair Housing Center; (13) the executive director of the  
 18 Center for Children's Advocacy; (14) the executive director of the  
 19 Connecticut Green Building Council; and [a representative] (15) two  
 20 representatives of the community action agencies administering energy  
 21 assistance programs under contract with the Department of Social  
 22 Services, designated by the Connecticut Association for Community  
 23 Action. The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and the  
 24 Commissioners of Social Services and Energy and Environmental  
 25 Protection, or their designees, shall serve as nonvoting members of the  
 26 board.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	July 1, 2022	16a-41b(a)
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**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

Subdivision designators were added for clarity.

**HS**      *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*

*The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.*

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**OFA Fiscal Note****State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

Expanding membership has no fiscal impact.

**The Out Years****State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB 5342*****AN ACT CONCERNING MEMBERSHIP OF THE LOW-INCOME ENERGY ADVISORY BOARD.*****SUMMARY**

This bill increases the Low-Income Energy Advisory Board's membership by six members. The bill increases, from one to two, the number of community action agency representatives on the board as designated by the Connecticut Association for Community Action. It also adds the following five members:

1. two municipally- or regionally-owned water utility representatives, designated by the Connecticut Water Works Association;
2. the Connecticut Fair Housing Center executive director;
3. the Center for Children's Advocacy executive director; and
4. the Connecticut Green Building Council executive director.

The bill also makes a minor change to include on the board the AARP Connecticut state director, rather than its Connecticut president.

By law, the board advises executive branch agencies on developing, planning, implementing, and coordinating energy-assistance related programs and policies. It advises the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) on the impacts of utility rates and policies. The board must also make recommendations to the legislature on the administration of the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program block grant. Under current law, the board includes at least 18 members, including representatives from (1) executive branch agencies (i.e., DEEP, the Office of Policy and Management, the Public

Utilities Regulatory Authority, and the Department of Social Services); (2) electric and gas utilities; and (3) advocacy and nonprofit organizations (CGS § 16a-41b).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2022

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea    20    Nay   0    (03/24/2022)